REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, and 10 are pending in the application. Claims 8 and 11-30 have been canceled.

Specification and Claims

Minor changes have been made to the specification to place it in better form for U.S. practice.

Further, minor changes have been made to the pending claims, without affecting the scope thereof, to place them in better form for U.S. practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because it is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 7 has been amended include all of the limitations of claim 8 to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because of some informalities.

Claim 3 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gassho

et al. (USP 7,180,626). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Gassho teach an information processing

device comprising:

> a status change processing section for controlling the registration processing
> section and the data processing section (i.e.-printer status monitor unit 105, see fig. 3) . .
> ., wherein the status change processing section instructs one or more other information
> processing devices to change into the active status when an amount of unprocessed data
> registered in the storage section exceeds a predetermined threshold value (Note: when a
> printer is congested, then jobs stored in the buffer are transferred to another printing
> apparatus, col. 2, lines 27-29) . . . .

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants agree that, as stated by the Examiner, when a printer is congested, then jobs

stored in the buffer are transferred to another printing apparatus. However, this is done is in a

totally different manner as compared to the claimed invention of the present application.

As shown in Fig. 3, Gassho has a printer control circuit 53 for each printer 51 connected

to a network. The printer control circuit 53 has a job status unit 104 that monitors the congestion

status of the print job stored in the buffer 55 and printer status monitor unit 105 that monitors the

working status of the printing mechanism 51. The monitoring results with regard to the

respective printers 50, 60, and 70 obtained by the job status monitor unit 103 and the printer

status monitor unit 105 are transferred to a print load distribution apparatus 80 (see col. 10, lines

46-57). As shown in Fig. 1-3, the print load distribution apparatus 80 is provided separately from the printer control circuit 53.

As stated in col. 11, lines 14-22, the print load distribution apparatus 80 sends a requirement signal to the printer of interest to require transmission of monitor information and receives the monitor information transmitted from the job status monitor unit 104 and the printer status monitor unit 105 in the printer of interest which has received the requirement signal.

Further, as stated in col. 11, lines 23-30, a job transfer decision unit 114 in the print load distribution apparatus 80 specifies a source printer that requires job transfer and a destination printer that receives the transferred pint job based on the monitoring results.

The print load distribution apparatus 80 selects one of the printer having sufficiently short queues of the print jobs amount the printers 50, 60, and 70 and specifies the selected printer as the destination printer (col. 11, lines 36-41), and a job transfer instruction 115 outputs an instruction to the source printer that requires the job transfer to transfer a print job (col. 11, lines 51-54).

In other words, it is the print load distribution apparatus 80 that receives the monitor information, selects a printer with short queue, and instructs a printer that requires job transfer to transfer a print job to the print load distribution apparatus 80.

The printer status monitor unit 105 (according to the Examiner, corresponds to the "status change processing section" of the present invention) merely monitors the congestion status of the print job stored in the buffer 55 and does not <u>instruct</u> "one or more other information processing devices to change into the active status when an amount of unprocessed data registered in the storage section exceeds a predetermined threshold value, and the status change processing

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section changes the information processing device into the non-active status and causes the data

processing section to process the unprocessed data." Accordingly, Gassho fails to disclose or

suggest the "status change processing section" as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-7, 9, and 10, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their

dependency on claim 1.

Claim 8 has been canceled.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the

rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at

the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite

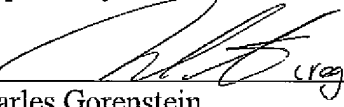prosecution in connection with the present application.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies

to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By
Charles Gorenstein
Registration No.: 29,271
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

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